

**STATEMENT BY U.S. REP. FRANK R. WOLF**  
**Congressional Delegation to the Horn of Africa**  
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I recently returned from an official visit to the Horn of Africa. Using Nairobi, Kenya as a staging point, I visited southern Sudan for a two-day period followed by one day's stop in Baidoa, Somalia.

The Sudan is far, far away. Not only in terms of the 20 hour flight to get there, but it is a distant place in a distant time. The refugees in southern Sudan are a forgotten people in a remote corner of the world whose story is an untold tragedy of oppression, of cruelty and of hopelessness. The ravages they continue to endure seem worse because they result not only from drought, plague and natural holocaust, but also spring from man's inhumanity to man.

On Monday, February 8, I flew in a small twin engine plane carrying relief medical supplies into southern Sudan for the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) organization. I arrived at the base camp which is home to the NPA, the only Non-Government Organization (NGO) today with a permanent round-the-clock presence in Sudan since four relief workers were recently killed in a skirmish involving factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Joining the NPA in Sudan is the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) another outstanding group whose vital role is conveying life-giving food supplies from outside the country to three refugee feeding camps in the southern region: Aswa, Ame and Atepe. These loosely defined camps are located in proximity to the main road bisecting Sudan on which hundreds of thousands of refugees make their way southward driven by the relentless and unforgiving army of the Sudan government in Khartoum. People are without food, without medicine, without clothing and without hope. These are people who would surely-perish without the bare subsistence provided by the Norwegian People's Aid and Catholic Relief groups.

I visited two of these three camps and saw the relief efforts which seem, at best, to fend off starvation and sickness for the moment, rather than provide lasting sustenance to the refugees. Twice each day, infants and children with their feeding bowls formed an endless line to receive meager rations of food to prolong their existence until they again line up and repeat the process. In these camps, I listened to the refugees and to the people. I heard Rebekka, a woman from the Dinka tribe who was angry and upset. She had lost her husband and three children. She told me three things which I heard again and again all throughout the region.

First, she said that the world is silent to the suffering in southern Sudan

because, she thought, the victims are black. The reluctance to act, in her view and others was a matter of race discrimination and would not be tolerated in any other part of the globe. The second point is, she felt, that they were being persecuted, starved, bombed and killed because they were Christians. The last point on which there is near universal agreement by the southern Sudanese refugees is that the other humanitarian groups such as World Vision and others who do a wonderful job should come back to help with their life-giving assistance. These groups left the region after the relief workers were killed and have been reluctant to return until some measure of security for the care-givers can be assured. These three points were echoed by others with whom I met. A pharmacist who provided the only medical and health care at the Ame camp made a similar plea and asked for the return to Sudan of the private humanitarian relief groups.

Until significantly more relief is available, there is little medical care, no health care, insufficient food to sustain life -- people are starving to death every day - no opportunity to educate the children and no chance for tomorrow. The people in Sudan have literally lost a generation and maybe more.

I also met with representatives of the SPLA, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA), with a number of Catholic Priests, local officials and a number of "old hands" in Sudan. I visited hospitals including one exclusively for those with tuberculosis. I saw first hand recent damage in the town of Kajo Keji on the western bank of the Nile where the Khartoum government bombed the crowded town market square, killing and injuring many. The Khartoum government conducted high altitude bombing on this village when there was no military presence. I saw bomb craters where they hit huts and destroyed the market place. I visited what was termed a hospital but what was in reality a filthy, rat infested place where the injured were gathered. One woman, injured in the air-raid, had shrapnel still in her head. She had no hope and little chance for tomorrow. When it seemed conditions were as bad as they could be, they got worse.

This is a story that must be told. This was my third trip to Sudan. I first travelled there in 1988 and then again in 1989. Conditions there are worse today than they were before. This situation must not be permitted to last. It need not last; there is much that can be done.

I want to summarize some recommendations. Our government must work for relief from the Khartoum government. Pressure must be put on them to stop the bombing and stop the killing. In the southern region of Sudan, buffer zones around pockets of refugees should be agreed to by the Khartoum government and the SPLA, to keep soldiers out and allow relief groups the freedom to administer food, medical and humanitarian aid. Humanitarian relief organizations must be encouraged to return to the region. Stepped-up efforts to provide medical teams to help out for short but frequent periods is essential. Failure to act soon will surely result in still more tragic loss of life and possibly the loss of an entire culture.